

basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate decreed otherwise, and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

Zachary's parents Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. These groups have been at the forefront of their pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For eighteen years, these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

TIBET

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last year I delivered a statement for the record commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising, during which His Holiness the Dalai Lama and more than 100,000 Tibetans were forced to flee their homeland as a result of brutal suppression by the Chinese government. Unfortunately, the human rights situation in Tibet has not improved, and has if anything deteriorated over the past year.

U.S. Administration officials and Congressional supporters of Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China often claim that more open trade with the West will expose ordinary Chinese to new ideas, new ideals, and a new independence from the State. This will awaken their desire for more freedom, paving the way for democracy in China. I have often voiced skepticism about these claims.

We do not have to wait for the people of Tibet to express their yearning for freedom. They have continuously struggled for their rights for over forty years, and have paid dearly for their actions. Their efforts so far have failed, not because they do not yearn to be free, but rather because their efforts are brutally suppressed and we are apparently little able to help them. Even our efforts in March to introduce at the annual meeting of the UN Commission for Human Rights a resolution condemning PRC officials' human rights practices in China and Tibet were blocked by the PRC and most of the industrialized nations.

If the Administration and Congress are serious about their efforts to pro-

mote human rights in China, surely Tibet should be the bellwether. We need to find concrete ways to demonstrate this commitment, and to encourage other countries to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LES BROWNLEE, USA (RET.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today the United States Army came to the U.S. Capitol to honor one of its most distinguished retired officers.

Colonel Les Brownlee is currently serving as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, having previously served as a staffer on the Committee and in my Senate office. He is known and respected throughout our nation's military and defense industry. This award—for his lifetime of extraordinary leadership in uniform and with the Senate—is well deserved.

I ask that the introduction by the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Jack Keane, and the citation be printed in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate which Colonel Brownlee has served for sixteen years. His record of public service stands as an inspiration for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SPEECH DELIVERED BY GENERAL JACK KEANE

June 13, 2000.

Senator WARNER, Senator THURMOND, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us. I would also like to welcome Les' son, John, his wife, LeAnne, and their new daughter, Thompson Ann.

Distinguished guests, friends and fellow soldiers. Thank you all for being here today to help us honor a true American patriot.

Originally, Major General LeMoyne, the Commander of the Infantry Center, was going to present this award during the Infantry Conference at Fort Benning, right there in building number four in the shadow of Iron Mike—a symbol that is so familiar to infantrymen. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts would not allow that to happen.

The citation that we will present to Les in just a few moments reads that the Order of Saint Maurice is presented for "distinguished contribution to, and loyal support of the Infantry, and demonstrating gallant devotion to the principle of selfless service."

No one fits that description better than Les Brownlee. He is a passionate advocate for soldiers who has devoted his entire life to the service of his country—both in peace and in war.

Les's career of military service is, by any measurement, an extraordinary record of courage, devotion to duty, and love of soldiering.

Les chose the Army's most demanding branch of service—the Infantry. Infantry training and infantry battle demand the very most of the human spirit—where leaders are expected to exercise personal, physical leadership with daring and courage; where soldiers must be willing to give up everything they care about in life; where God-forsaken terrain, foul, miserable weather, extreme cold and extreme heat, can be as challenging as any enemy; where raw, stark fear is personal and normal; where training can be every bit as dangerous and demanding as combat; and where death is always a silent companion.

Les Brownlee volunteered for this life—a life of hardship and challenge, but a life of service in the company of the very best men our nation has to offer.

He volunteered for special skills—airborne, Ranger—skills that required an even greater degree of personal courage and sacrifice, but skills which would enable him to become and even better infantryman.

Les is a veteran of two tours of combat in Vietnam. A decorated Hero who has twice been awarded the Silver Star—our Nation's third highest award for valor. He also has three Bronze Star Medals, and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in combat.

Leading soldiers in combat is the most challenging and demanding assignment an officer will ever face . . . it tests the character of a commander . . . it forces him to bare his soul and face his own human frailties like no other experience.

Les Brownlee faced that test, twice in Vietnam, and it has shaped the character of his service ever since. It is where he learned about the bonds that form between soldiers and between soldiers and their leaders; it is where he learned that service to others is more important than service to self.

He is a paratrooper who understands all types of infantry.

He served as a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division, a Company Commander in the 173 Airborne Brigade, and he commanded a mechanized Battalion in the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany.

Despite his distinguished combat record, the thing that his friends who served with him will tell you that he is most proud is that, in January of 1965, he was named the distinguished honor graduate of his Ranger class. This prestigious honor is determined by peer and instructor evaluations and is awarded to the soldier who exhibits extraordinary leadership abilities.

Incidentally he was also graduated an Honor Graduate of his Officer Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College.

Throughout his distinguished Army Career, and certainly in his capacity on the Armed Services Committee, Les has kept the welfare of the common soldier close to his heart.

NECESSARILY ABSENT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, last week I was necessarily absent from the Senate to attend my daughter's graduation from college. As a result, I missed two votes Thursday and one Friday morning as I was returning to Washington.

For the record, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to table the Daschle amendment related to a Patients' Bills of Rights. I would have voted nay on the point of order raised with respect to the McCain amendment related to the so-called Section 527 loophole in our campaign finance laws. I would have voted aye on the Grassley amendment related to accounting practices at the Department of Defense. My vote would not have changed the outcome on any of these votes.

Also for the record, I am extraordinarily proud of my daughter, Jessamyn, who graduated magna cum laude with highest honors from Harvard University last Thursday, June 8.